

Partial Confirmation on Trip

STATINTL

CIA Backs Up Dodd

The Central Intelligence Agency has lifted its customary veil of secrecy just enough to support part of Sen. Thomas J. Dodd's explanation of a controversial 1964 trip to West Germany.

The Senate Ethics Committee made public yesterday a letter from CIA Director Richard M. Helms that said the Connecticut Democrat sought information on Soviet terror and espionage operations before and after the trip.

Sen. Dodd's former aides told the committee the purpose of the trip was to help public relations magnate Julius Klein hold on to lucrative contracts with West German business interests.

DENIAL

Sen. Dodd denied this, testifying that he flew to Germany in behalf of the Senate Internal Security sub-committee to interview Bogdan Stashynsky, a confessed Soviet assassin who defected to the West and was in a West German jail.

The trip is a crucial element in the Ethics Committee's investigation of misconduct charges against Sen. Dodd. The panel is also gathering material for later hearings on allegations of an improper use of campaign contributions and other financial questions.

Mr. Helms' letter was an unusual departure from the CIA's custom of strict secrecy and aversion to publicity.

TO STENNIS

Mr. Helms wrote Sen. John C. Stennis (D., Miss.), the committee chairman, that Sen. Dodd had asked the CIA to "confirm the fact of his contracts with this agency in obtaining information on Soviet murders, assassinations and kidnappings."

Mr. Helms did not comment on the merits of Sen. Dodd's trip, whether it was necessary, or whether it contributed to the U.S. intelligence effort.

Mr. Helms confirmed that the

Stashynsky and the Soviet murder apparatus before and after the Senator's trip. He also said Sen. Dodd interviewed a CIA agent in Bonn and a German legal official and went to Karlsruhe for an interview with Stashynsky himself.